

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
April 15 & 16, 2004**

The regular meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on April 15, 2004 in Room 1D2 of the Transportation Building in Olympia, Washington.

Commissioners present at the meeting were: Chair Davis, Ed Barnes, Elmira Forner, George Kargianis, A. Michèle Maher, Dan O'Neal and Dale Stedman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Maher, and seconded by Commissioner Barnes to approve the meeting minutes for February 18 & 19, 2004. The motion passed unanimously.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary MacDonald introduced Brian Sonntag, State Auditor, State Auditor's Office to the Commission. Mr. Sonntag briefly summarized the Auditor's role in state government.

Mr. Sonntag presented the Extra Mile Awards to WSDOT employees, and thanked them for their outstanding contributions to public service.

Secretary MacDonald shared highlights of his SCAN Performance Measures trip. He noted that the countries that he visited had similar transportation issues to those of Washington State.

Larry Ehl, WSDOT, Federal Liaison, provided an update regarding reauthorization.

John Conrad, Assistant Secretary, Engineering and Regional Operations, provided an update on the status of the Hood Canal Bridge project. He stated that archeological site treatment would begin within a week. Construction will proceed shortly after.

Judy Giniger, Director, Public Transportation and Rail, provided a briefing regarding the status of the Seattle Monorail Project.

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF TRANSPORTATION BONDS

Jeff Caldwell, Transportation Funds Manager, presented Resolution No. 662 amending Resolution No. 648 and Resolution 658, to reflect the amount of proceeds from bond sales appropriated in the 2003-2005 Transportation Budget (ESHB 1163, Chapter 3360, Laws of 2003), as amended by the 2004 Supplemental Transportation Budget (ESHB 2474, Chapter 229, Laws of 2004).

It was moved by Commissioner Maher, and seconded by Commissioner Barnes to approve Resolution No. 662 amending Resolution No. 648 and Resolution No. 658. The motion passed unanimously.

AUTHORIZING PROGRAM STRUCTURE CHANGES

Bill Ford, WSDOT, Budget Chief, briefed the Commission regarding moving funds between Department programs. The Department proposed changes to align the financial structure with the management structure, and to continue the realignment of the Department's program structure to attain clear delineation between operating and capital activities. The changes are typically generated by reorganization activities within the Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Maher, and seconded by Commissioner Forner to approve the proposed 2005-07 program structure changes with the withdrawal of item four. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AND LEGISLATURE COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public or legislative members that requested to speak.

IMPLEMENTATION OF 2003 ASSET MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

Kathleen Davis, Director, Highways and Local Programs, introduced Bob Brooks, Pavement Manager, Highways and Local Programs, Barb Savary, Safety and Asset Management Specialist, Public Transportation and Rail, and Walt Olsen, Deputy Director, County Road Administration Board (CRAB).

Mr. Brooks briefed the Commission regarding the statutory city pavement preservation requirements. He explained how Washington methodology pavement rating data is collected. The Department has partnered with the Association of Washington Cities to develop a work plan for implementing arterial data collection from Washington cities.

Ms. Savary briefed the Commission regarding the development of transit systems planning statutory requirements. Transit systems, as a condition of receiving state funding, are required to develop a maintenance and preservation program using lowest life cycle cost methodologies. An expert panel has been formed that will develop planning requirements, define transit assets, and what lowest life cycle cost means for the transit industry. The panel has defined what the core elements will be in a maintenance plan. The Department is requesting the Commission's concurrence with the core elements and the direction that the panel has taken. The Commission determined that it is comfortable with the panel's direction.

Mr. Olsen briefed the Commission regarding the CRAB's direction in establishing a standard of good practice for the maintenance of transportation system assets. He explained

that the expected benefits would be good management practices, consistent, uniform documentation of work programs and budgets. CRAB will assist the counties in implementing a maintenance management system (MMS) before the December 31, 2007 deadline.

PROJECT UPDATE: SR 99, ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT AND SEAWALL PROJECT

Dave Dye, Urban Corridors Administrator, introduced Maureen Sullivan, Project Director, Kimberly Farley, Environmental Director, and Tom Madden, Engineering Manager, Urban Corridors Office.

Ms. Sullivan explained that during the week of March 15-20, 2004 the Department performed its biannual inspection of the Viaduct facility. This inspection did not show any additional settlement or cracking to the structure since the September 2003 inspection. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project has been released. The DEIS examines and analyzes 5 alternatives that will be available for public comment June 1, 2004.

Ms. Farley explained that the Viaduct DEIS document was written to be user friendly and contain graphs and charts as visual stimulants in order to hold the reader's attention.

URBAN CORRIDORS OFFICE UPDATE

Dave Dye, Urban Corridors Administrator, provided an update on the status of the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID). He explained that the RTID Executive Board adopted a revised revenue plan at its March 2004 meeting. The draft plan including a detailed project list is scheduled for completion in late April 2004. The composition of the project list will be impacted by Sound Transit Board's determination on whether or not it will join the RTID for a common ballot measure.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION OF QUARTERLY PROJECT REVIEWS

Commissioner Stedman attended South Central Region's quarterly project review meeting. He commented that the information was very useful.

Commissioner O'Neal attended the Olympic Region's quarterly project review meeting. He found the presentation very interesting.

Commissioner Forner attended the North Central Region's quarterly project review meeting. She shared that the presentation was very informational.

Commissioner Barnes attended the Southwest Region's quarterly project review meeting. He commented that the presentation was very useful.

Commissioner Kargianis attended the Northwest Region's quarterly project review meeting.

Chair Davis attended the Urban Corridors Office quarterly project review meeting. He reported that the process was very structured and informative.

RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Bill Henselman, WSDOT Risk Manager, and Rene Tomisser, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, provided an overview of the Department's tort liability exposures.

Mr. Henselman provided an informational presentation on the management review and assessment of the Department's past tort liabilities and exposures for the six fiscal years 1998-2003. He stated that the Department's Risk Management Office, and the Office of the Attorney General/Torts Division have corroborated in a joint risk summit/workshop in order to produce data analysis, and management review to ensure maximum effectiveness in minimizing liabilities. The summit/workshops were set up to focus discussion on the most cost effective initiatives to enhance safety, reduce exposure and increase litigation success in these cases, and to ensure action plans to implement recommended initiatives are under development.

Mike Thorne, CEO, Washington State Ferries, provided a brief summary of WSF's tort preventive measures and claims management.

KEYSTONE TERMINAL STUDY

Mike Thorne, CEO, Washington State Ferries, provided the Commission with the recommended list of four people to serve on the Keystone Citizens Advisory Group (CAG). As part of the process for the terminal analysis, the Legislature directed the Commission to select a citizen advisory group composed of one WSF Ferry Captain, two members of the traveling public that use the Keystone to Port Townsend route on a regular basis and one tug pilot. The suggested two riders are; Mayor Nancy Conard, Town of Coupeville, and Forest Shomer, Port Townsend; suggested alternate is Bernadette Stechman; Captain Clark Jennison; tug boat pilot; and Captain Tim McGuire, Washington State Ferry Pilot; suggested alternates are Captain Gary Parson, Washington State Ferries and Captain Bill Chapple, Washington State Ferries. The advisory group will provide a technical analysis that shall include the cost and benefits associated with preserving and maintaining the terminal; associated ridership projections; maintaining and retrofitting existing vessels so that they can serve the terminal; coordinating the impact of vehicles using the ferry run with highway capacity; how many, if any, new vessels should be constructed; and the impact on the environment. The Department shall report to the Legislative Transportation Committee by December 1, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Stedman, and seconded by Commissioner Maher to approve the recommended members, and alternate members, of the Keystone Citizen Advisory Group (CAG). The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Jennifer Ziegler, Administrator, provided an update regarding the Burley-Olalla Interchange as requested by Commissioner Kargianis. She distributed a memo containing a time-line based on information compiled by the Department and Commission.

The Legislature accelerated funding for construction of the interchange to allow the construction to be advanced from January 2010 to September 2008. This will allow for the project to be completed one year earlier than planned. An interim safety project to reduce accidents by limiting intersection crossing and turning movements was awarded on April 12, 2004. The expected completion of the project is during the summer of 2004.

Ms. Ziegler distributed a handout that provided examples of the statutory relationship among the Commission, Department and the Legislature.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner reports were deferred to the June 16 & 17, 2004 meeting.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m., on April 16, 2004.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DALE STEDMAN, Chair

DANIEL O'NEAL, Vice-Chair

EDWARD BARNES, Member

AUBREY DAVIS, Member

ELMIRA FORNER, Member

RUTH FISHER, Member

A. MICHÈLE MAHER, Member

DOUGLAS MACDONALD, Ex-Officio Member
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

JENNIFER ZIEGLER, Administrator

DATE OF APPROVAL